1943

7031/40.

GENERAL

W 1787

1942 1943

7031/40

CLOSED UNTIL ~~1974~~

JEWS AND REFUGEES

PALESTINIAN JEWS CO323/1845/29

OFFER TO SEND FOOD TO POLAND

Previous

Subsequent

7031/40/AA

B 116	1/12.
Col. Cole (Pk St)	5/12.
P 508	6/12
B 116 Palace Chambers	14/1
PUT BY	
Col. Cole (Pk St)	14/1
Mr Frere	17/1
Lofjing Deft	19/1
Mr Frere	19/1
216 (L)	20/1
PUT BY B 116.	

B. 116	26/5
Mr Megson	29/5
Mr Frere	29/5
Col Cole	31/5
P 714	1/6
Gen. Reg. (Palace Chambers)	
PUT BY	30/7
Mr Frere	6/10
Lofjing Deft	7/10
Col. Cole.	8/10
216 (L) (Osw)	11/10
B 116	25/10.
Mr Frere (Pk St)	25/10 25/10
714	
Mr Frere	3/11
P 714	3/11
B 116. PUT BY	

FILE A

1942 1943

7031

140

1 F.O. — W4393/62/49 — 13.4.42.

2 M.E.W. — T550/10. — (Reg.1). — 9.4.42

The situation of the Jewish community in Poland is probably more wretched than that of any other people in the world at the present time, and one cannot but feel sympathy with any scheme such as that proposed by the Chief Rabbi in Palestine. But I do not think that we should wish to press the M.E.W. to make concessions on their account, and it will be seen from (2) that the Ministry would not in fact agree to food being sent to Poland. In any event it would, I think, be for consideration whether the Middle East is in any position at present to send food on any substantial scale. The Ministry are however prepared to permit the despatching of medicaments from Palestine. The Cairo telegram makes it clear that these would be surplus Palestine products, and I do not think that we need do more than say we are in general agreement with the proposals made in the Ministry's letter.

for Luke

17.4.42.

Perhaps we might add "provided M.E.W. agrees" Mr Davis agrees 17/4

Yes. Eds. 18/4

As proposed with Mr. Davis addition (cut-me see 20/4)

J.B.S. Wilkinson

20/4 altered

3 F.O. — W4392/62/49 — 17.4.42.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

Appl. letter in reply submitted.

R.E. Sainsbury 20/4/42

4 To F.O. ~~Copy note~~ 20.4.42.

5 To M.E.W. w/c 4. 20.4.42.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

6 F.O. — W4392/62/49 — (Refl) — 24.4.42

(1) ~~CR 330~~
(2) 295D

Copies of (1) and (6) thereof to be telegraphed to Palestine by air mail

C.D.
29 APR
30/4/42

Sir L. Lyon
28/4/42 at 11.0

7 To Palestine Secret W/C 1 & 6 — LF — 30.4.42

8 W.A. Camps (M/Economic Welfare) — T550/10/907 — (Ref. 6) — 13.8.42.

Mr Clark.

Pl see 8. Has your dept any views to put to M.E.W. on this? It is for consideration whether we should let the S.H.C. have information on the situation by sending a copy of 8 and relevant extract from the enclosure by a s/c confidential letter to the Col. Sec.

S. J. Core
20/8

No doubt, but we shd certainly let Mr. Macpherson have copy of correspondence as suggested by Col. Sec., reqd. (7)

Clark
21/8/42

I agree
Eccles. 21/8

Mr Sidebotham,

You should see this.

?proceed as in draft h/with.
Then recirculate to Mr Frere for an interim ackt to Mr Camps.

Yes but I have submitted to Mr Boyd the draft letter. Sign the letter.
GBS. 28/8 above

S. J. Cole
28/8/42.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

9 To Macpherson W/C '8' + encl. 29-8-42.
Cons:

Re-circ v further action on dft. of 9.
H Bartlett 31/8

7/10 10 To W.A. Camps (M.E.W.) w/c 9 (~~camps~~) — 7-9-42

No reply to 10 rec'd.
J Jeffery 7/10.

Bring up in a week
D. H. S. Frere.
10/10 at once

16/10

6.0.v. min. above.
L. J. Humpleby
16.10.42.

Bring up in a month
D. H. S. Frere
16/10 at once

16/11

11 Chief Sec. Office, Palestine — SF/237/42 — (ref. 9)
28.10.42.

? Reply to Camps under covering letter.

Draft h/w. D. H. S. Frere
13/11

S. J. Cole
13.11 above

12 To Camps copy w/c 11 + encl 17.11.42.

13. W. A. Camps (M/E/W/) T550/10/907. — ref 12 — 21/11/42.

? copy to C. S. Evans Esq., Chief Secretary's Office, Palestine, (comps) ref. 11.

D. H. S. Freeve
23/11

14. Transjordan — sao. tel 165 — ref 9 & 11. — 28.11.42.

? Attached copy of 14 to Camps (M.E.W.) ref. 12, for observations.

D. H. S. Freeve
23/12

13. Draft a short note for Mr Boyd's signature to Mr Macpherson sending him a copy of Mr Camps observations on 11.

14. Draft a short covering letter to Mr Camps forwarding a copy of 14, referring him to previous correspondence under his No T/550/10/907, and say that we shall be grateful for his views.

S. J. Cole
23/12 alone

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

16 To Macpherson w/c 13 & enclos: 29.12.42.

16 To M.E.W. (Camps) — Comps 29.12.42.

17 To Camps M.E.W w/c 14 — 29.12.42.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

No reply to 17. L. J. Humpleby
8.2.43.

I have spoken to M.E.W., who transferred me to the Treasury (Mynors). The whole expenditure of the Polish R.C. is (so they hope) going to be organised on a consistent plan from henceforth, but it has been difficult to reach an agreement on what the plan is to be. However the matter ought to be settled satisfactorily within the next week and then we shall get an answer to (14). Bring up in ten days. D. H. S. Freeve 8/2

b.u.v. min. of 8. 2.43.

L. J. Humpleby
18. 2. 43.

I have spoken to Maynors: the matter has not been settled yet.

5/3 Bring up in a fortnight.

D. H. S. Frere
19/2 at once

LJH

b.u.v. min. above.

L. J. Humpleby
9. 3. 43.

I have spoken to Camps. Bring up in

Nov 5/4 a fortnight if he has not by then sent a reply to 17.

D. H. S. Frere
20/3 at once

b.u.v. min. above.

L. J. Humpleby
16. 4. 43.

1943 Correspondence.

18. W. A. Camps – T550/10/904 – (ref. 14) – 15.4.43

14/5 I think we should pass this on as an interim reply to

the H.C. Draft h/w.

D. H. S. Frere
20/4

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE 19 Palestine Tel 438 Conf – Ref 14 – 16.4.43.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE 20 To Palestine Saw Tel 122 Conf —— 23/4/43

21 To Camps copy of 20 Stamp —— 23/4/43

LJH

Nothing further to 18.

J. Lerwick

26. 5. 43.

I spoke to Mr. Campbell: nothing further has happened, and — knowing the Poles — he doesn't expect any immediate development. He advised us to let the matter drop unless and until Palestine made further representations. ? Put by.

D.H.S. Frere
29/5

But as we have promised to inform Palestine, bring up in 2 months time for consideration.

P.S. Cole
31. 5

30/7

B. u. r. minute above

K. Wallace
30/7

To Campbell 18 ansd —

11. 10. 43.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

Diary 25/10.

Mr. Frere.

No reply yet rec'd to (22)

N. Gill 25/10.

Please bring up on 12/11

D.H.S. Frere
25/10 ct

25 M. & W. 21.10.43

refs

Can leave it for the present - unless we get a reminder from Palestine.

Bring up on 1st December so that we can look at it again.

S. J. Cole
3-11-43
alone

1/12.

bol. bole.

B. M. as regards bol above.

R. Gill 1/12.

Bring up again on 15 January.

S. J. Cole
5.12 alone

D 15/1/44

aor

bol. bole.

B. M. as above

R. Gill 14/1

Send a s/o letter to Quennell, explain that we are embarrassed by the lack for giving a reply to the H.C. in this matter. Is there anything we can say to him?

S J Cole
Act Admin

To Quennell. 23 ansd — Cons — 20.1.44

2 by
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE
D. 49/12
CDSR

see (1) on 1944.

Ref. T.550/10/907.

Rd

~~9400/10~~

22 OCT 1943

23

Ministry of Economic Warfare,
Berkeley Square House,
Berkeley Square,
W.1.

21st October, 1943.

Dear Colonel Cole,

22 OCT Recd

Thank you for your letter of October 11th, 7031/40/43 (to which I am replying on behalf of Camps) about the despatch of parcels to Poland by Poles in Palestine.

22

The position is still as described in Camps' letter of April 15th, to which you refer. In the circumstance we are inclined to hope that you will allow it to remain so.

18

Yours sincerely,

R. Quennell

Brief 24 Mar

Lieut. Colonel S.J. Cole,
Colonial Office,
Whitehall,
S.W.1.

Rec'd reg 16/4

~~4400/10~~ 7031/40 18

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC WARFARE,
Berkeley Square House,
Berkeley Square,
W.1.

T.550/10/907

15th April, 1943.

Dear Cole,

I must apologize for the long delay in answering your letter No. 7031/40/42 of December 29th, 1942, about sending parcels from Portugal to Poland on behalf of Polish subjects in Palestine.

7

I am afraid we have still no answer about this, the reason being that the Polish parcel business is very much in a tangle, and we and the Treasury are still trying to extract from the Poles some coherent information bearing upon it.

I enclose in this connection a copy of a letter dated March 23rd from here to the Polish Red Cross. So far as we know, the Poles have not yet approached Trading with the Enemy Department.

Encl (2)

Yours sincerely
W. A. Camps.

Lieut. Col. S. J. Cole,
Colonial Office,
Whitehall,
S.W.1.

Copy

T550/10/907

Ministry of Economic Warfare,
Berkeley Square House,
Berkeley Square, W.1.

23rd, March 1943.

Would you please refer to Mr.Mynor's letter to you of March 19th, of which he was kind enough to send us a copy. It is there agreed that you should continue for the time being to remit up to £15,000 monthly to Lisbon, of which £11,500 would be used to buy goods for prisoners of war, and £3,500 would be set aside for postal parcels for civilians in Poland of the kind allowed under other similar schemes.

This sum of £3,000 is rather in excess of the £3,000 monthly which is the standard figure for civilian parcel schemes of their kind. We have however agreed with the Treasury that it is acceptable in the circumstances.

We are informed that Polish nationals in Palestine, at present serving with the Allied Forces wish to be able to have parcels sent from Portugal to a value of £200 monthly; and we therefore suggest that their remittances and orders should be forwarded to you from Palestine, to be executed within the framework of the existing scheme. Such an arrangement would have our full approval.

Meanwhile, before going any further, would you be kind enough to get into touch with Mr.A.S.Tolhurst of the Trading with the Enemy Department, Kingsway, W.C.2., and obtain his approval of the details of the scheme.

(Sgd.) P.QUENNELL.

Monsieur A.Poklewski Koziell,
Polish Red Cross,
34, Belgrave Square,
S. W. 1.

8.

Code, Cypher or Clear?

TELEGRAM

C.S.O. 67.

14

From

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PALESTINE, TRANS-JORDAN.

Despatched 28.11.42

To Secretary of State.

7031/40

GPP. 15072—5000—20-4-42

No.165 Saving. Confidential.

Local Delegate of Polish Red Cross has applied for permission to remit sum of two hundred pounds monthly to Delegate of Polish Red Cross in Lisbon for despatch of food parcels to civilians in Poland stated to be mainly families of Polish soldiers in Middle East.

Having regard to correspondence enclosed with demi official letter from BOYD No.7031/40/42 of 29th August and reply No.SF/237/42 of 28th October, I request that I may be informed whether permission desired, to which there is no local objection, may be given and if so what channel should be followed for remittances.

Ref 9. 11. on 7031/40/42.

15 DEC 1942 C.O. REGY

Downing Street,
S.W.1.

75388/42. 6 December, 1942.

Dear Camps,

As arranged by telephone on Saturday morning I enclose a copy of a memorandum incorporating representations by a deputation of the Executive Committee of the World Central Agudath Israel concerning the plight of the Jewish population of the enemy occupied territories of Europe. This memorandum has been forwarded to our Secretary of State by the High Commissioner for Palestine.

You will see that one of the three possible measures which the Committee asks should be considered as palliatives for the plight of these Jews is an expansion of the relief scheme whereby about 10,000 food parcels a month are despatched to them from Portugal. I shall be extremely grateful if you would let us know M.E.W's views as to the possibility of allowing such an expansion.

Yours sincerely,
P. J. Cole

W. A. CAMPS, ESQ.

T550/10/907

13.

23 NOV 1942

Ministry of Economic Warfare,
Berkeley Square House,
Berkeley Square, W.1.

21st November, 1942.

Dear Colonel Cole,

Many thanks for your letter No.7031/40/42 of November 17th, with which you enclosed a copy of a letter from the Chief Secretary's office at Jerusalem about possible participation of Jews in Palestine in a limited scheme authorised in this country for the despatch of parcels from Poland to Jews in the ghettos of of Poland. Apart from the main question raised in Mr. Evans's letter, I should be grateful if in your reply you would point out that the Press Statement which appeared in Palestine is false in several particulars. No parcels are sent from London to Lisbon for forwarding to Poland. Moreover, it was expressly laid down when the scheme was sanctioned that any suggestion that the action of the British Government should be used as a precedent to encourage other Governments to make similar arrangements was strongly to be deprecated. On the other hand the Press statement is correct in saying that no public financial campaign is to be conducted and that the necessary funds for the time being have been provided already from private sources.

As regards the possible participation of the Palestinian residents in this arrangement, I have been in touch with Mr. Brotman of the Board of Deputies of British Jews who advises me as follows:-

(a) In general it is not desired to encourage any extension of the scheme outside the United Kingdom at the present stage. This agrees with our own view, which Mr. Evans has correctly understood.

(b) Remittances from private individuals who wish to have parcels sent to designated addressees are in any case excluded by the terms of the scheme. Nor are/

Lieutenant Colonel S.J.Cole,
Colonial Office,
Dover House,
Whitehall.
S. W. 1.

are contributions to the general fund at present desired since sufficient financial means are available.

(c) If reputable Jewish organisations in Palestine happen to know the names and addresses of Jews in Polish ghettos these can be forwarded to London to the Board of Deputies, who would then consider them in case it should prove possible to send parcels to such addresses as might previously have not been known here. Such names and addresses can be accepted only from Jewish organisations and not from miscellaneous individuals.

You will see from this that the question of a maximum monthly remittance from Palestine to London does not arise, though if it did, it would be a contribution to the total monthly expenditure allowed under the scheme and not supplementary to it.

You will also notice that paragraph (c) above indicates what Mr.Brotman and I consider the above to be acceptable at a pinch, if some arrangement proves necessary. Neither of us wish to encourage the collection of names and addresses in Palestine, though we recognize that if the people out there became interested it would be very difficult to turn them entirely away.

If such lists should be offered by Palestinian organisations, it would be necessary to find a convenient method of transmitting them. If agreeable to you, I suggest that communication of this kind from Palestinian organizations might be handed to an office of the administration for transmission to the Board of Deputies as this would avoid difficulties in the Censorship. It would be helpful if all other communications and enquiries, especially private ones, could be discouraged by all possible means.

I enclose with Mr.Brotman's permission a copy of a letter which he has written to certain persons overseas in response to enquiries which he has received about the scheme. It might be of interest to the Chief Secretary's Office at Jerusalem since it gives a very clear account of the nature of the thing and how it is being run.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Brotman (Board of

of Deputies of British Jews, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, W.1. Telephone Euston 3952), in case I have imperfectly represented his views. I am also sending a copy to Mr. Tolhurst at Trading with the Enemy Department.

Yours sincerely

W. A. Campbs.

FROM: THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS.

Woburn House,
Upper Woburn Place,
London,
W.1.

16th November, 1942.

Confidential.

Your Ref: T550/10/907.

W. A. Camps, Esq.,
Ministry of Economic Warfare,
Berkeley Square House,
W.1.

Dear Mr. Camps,

You will perhaps recall my telling you that in the very early stage of the schemes for sending postal packets to the ghettos a somewhat garbled version of what was proposed had leaked out to America, and that I was being inundated with cables from Jewish organisations in America, Canada and South Africa. To all of these I have used a stock form of reply, indicating that the scheme was of small dimensions, limited to this country, and of such a nature as not to conflict with the blockade. You know, I think, the general text, for I consulted you at the time.

One of the most persistent of the enquiries has been Mr. Saul Hayes, head of the Canadian Jewish Refugee Organisation. I promised him at one time that I would, in due course, let him have fuller details, and now that I have received a further telegram from him I thought I might - without harm - send him a fuller letter, which would perhaps have the effect of satisfying him that further enquiries would serve no useful purpose.

I./

I enclose a copy of the letter I propose sending to him, and I should be grateful if you would let me know by telephone whether you have any objection, and if so, what, so that I can make the necessary alterations.

With the same end in view - namely, to stave off enquiries - I should like to send a copy of that letter to the American Jewish Committee - a prominent U.S.A. Jewish organisation - that has our full confidence.

Yours sincerely,

(signed A. G. Bortman)
Secretary.

COPY.

13th November, 1942.

Private and Confidential.

Saul Hayes, Esq.,
1121 St. Catherine Street West,
Montreal,
Canada.

Dear Mr. Hayes,

In the course of our telegraphic exchanges on the scheme for sending postal packets to Poland, I undertook to send you a full letter, and I have only delayed doing so for the reason that the scheme has only quite recently been fully put into operation; and secondly, as I hope you will see in what follows, there was and is every need to avoid publicity.

Some time ago it was intimated to the Board of Deputies of British Jews that a British Government department concerned viewed with sympathy approposal that a limited amount of currency should be transferred to Portugal from Britain under the auspices of the Polish Government, for the purpose of buying in Portugal and despatching thence postal packets of food to the starving Jews in the ghettos. Negotiations were conducted with various departments of the British Government, whose approval was necessary, and a scheme was finally approved. The arrangements which have been agreed to, as between the various Governments departments, the Polish Government, and the Board of Deputies, are briefly:-

1. From 8 - 10,000 postal packets of about 1 lb. weight each may be sent from Portugal every month.

2. The food packages must consist of goods produced in Portugal, and not of a kind imported to that country through the blockade. In practice this means tinned fish, as well as dried foods, and similar commodities.

3./

3. The possibility of sending even that comparatively small number of postal packets depends on the capacity of the Portuguese postal system - which even if it can accommodate this extra load, is not likely to be able to take more.

4. The amount of currency permitted to be transferred to Portugal has been fixed to a certain maximum - sufficient, it is believed, to cover the cost of postal packets per month. But if the cost is greater than the maximum, then only fewer postal packets can be sent.

5. The transfer of the currency to Portugal is effected through the Polish Government here - the funds for the purpose of the transfer being remitted to the Polish Government by the Board of Deputies, which is in close touch for the purpose with that Government.

6. The Board of Deputies is the sole Jewish body in contact with the British and other Governments in respect of the scheme - although, for the purpose of selection of names of individual recipients in the Polish ghettos, the Board has called in for consultation representatives of Polish-Jewish organisations in this country, and other Jewish organisations in a position to help.

7. The scheme is confined to this country, and, to the greatest extent possible, the names of recipients in the Polish ghettos are names obtained here from relatives in this country of Jews in Poland. A certain number of names, however, have been taken from lists which, before the scheme was started, had been sent by certain American organisations to the Polish Government here.

8. The money for the first two months has been raised through the generosity of an organisation. All that we are doing at present is to get - without any press publicity, and with the help of certain Jewish organisations in this country -

the/

the names and recent addresses of relatives living in Poland of people in this country, and also the names of the people here sending the information and their relationship to the intended recipients. We are not asking for any money from those who send us the names and addresses, and we do not intend, in any case, to take orders, so to speak, from people who are ready to give money in order that a particular recipient shall receive a parcel. We are treating all the names and addresses received on a basis of equality - whether the Jews concerned are Polish Jews or Jews of another nationality, or stateless persons deported from other parts of Europe to Poland. This is the point I intended to make in my reply to your cable, received here on 12th November, the text of which, and my reply, I give at the foot of this letter.

9. The despatch of the parcels from Portugal is effected through a representative in Lisbon of the Polish Government. Dr. Schwartz, of the Joint Distribution Committee, has kindly consented to act in Portugal as the representative of the Board of Deputies, to help - in co-operation with the representative of the Polish Government - in the general work of despatching and overseeing the arrangements. The scheme has only been operating since about two or three weeks, and I have not yet received a report from Dr. Schwartz or the Polish Government, and do not expect one for some time, for obvious reasons.

10. From the very beginning of the negotiations of the scheme it had been impressed upon us that the scheme should be kept as private as possible to the Jewish public in this country. It was realized, of course, that, in obtaining the addresses, the bare knowledge of the scheme would have to be given to the Jewish organisations asking for the names and addresses, and that at some time or other, if the Jewish population in

this/

this country were to be approached for funds, there would have to be a discreet disclosure in any private communications that were sent to potential donators. Nevertheless, we have been able to avoid press publicity in this country, and we have enjoined upon the relatives who send us names and addresses that they must on no account communicate with people overseas concerning the scheme, and least of all with recipients in Poland.

Unfortunately, certain enterprising telegraphic agencies were more motivated by journalistic instincts than the desirability of discretion, and gave the information in a somewhat garbled and inaccurate form to America, where it was taken up by Jewish organisations who, quite naturally, were anxious to know what had taken place. I regret also that some responsible Jewish organisations in this country were apparently unwise enough to write to their corresponding organisations in America giving full details which they had learnt in confidence. I hope, therefore, you will appreciate and understand the reasons for my not answering your cables fully, and indeed for appearing to evade giving you the information. I had no other course to follow, but I think that it would be best now, for your strictly personal and private information, to give you the fuller details in this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Secretary.

Copy of your cable dated 12th November 1942.

"Does food parcel project envisage possibility of individual contributing to purchase package to particular recipient stop Would also appreciate data as to present status of project reply paid."

Copy of my reply - 12.11.42.

"Food parcels project unenvisages possibility indicated your cable stop. Project smallscale limited this country airmailing letter."

C.O.

DRAFT AND RECORD COPY

12

LETTER SENT .....

REGISTERED No. 7031/40/42

DATE. 17 Nov. 14 NOV 16/11

DRAFT

MR. Free 13/11

~~MR.~~ Col. Cole 13/11

MR. .....

(s/o for Col. Cole's signature)

(8)

With ref. to your letter No. T550/10/907 of the 13th of Aug. on the subject of the despatch of parcels to Poland, I enclose a copy of a letter which has been received from the Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Palestine which I think answers

ENCLOSURES

FURTHER ACTION

To W. A. Camps Esq.
M.E.W.

[12583A] Wt. 47177/205 10m. 2/42 C.N.Ld. 748
[12935C] Wt. 12138/223 20m. 5/42 C.N.Ld. 748

answers ~~all~~ the points you raise. You will observe that there is ~~see that their feel of Palestine has~~ no local objection to residents of Palestine participating in the ~~fund~~ schemes, but that if they do wish to participate, ~~if their participation~~ and have your consent ~~approval~~ to do so, the Govt. of Palestine would like an indication of the maximum monthly sum which may be contributed from Palestine and how it should be remitted to this country. Perhaps you will give the matter your consideration in case the contingency arises.

. . . .

RECEIVED
10 NOV 1942
C.O.

11

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
JERUSALEM,
PALESTINE.

SF/237/42.
CONFIDENTIAL.

R 19

28 October, 1942.

Dear Boyd.

9 Would you please refer to your letter No. 7031/40/42 of the 29th August on the subject of parcels for the Jewish community in Poland.

Although a number of requests have been made from time to time for permission to send parcels of food and clothing to inter alias Jewish refugees from Poland who have reached Russia or Iran, the question of sending parcels into Poland has never been raised here.

Information regarding a scheme instituted in England, presumably the same as that to which your letter refers was, however, published in the press on the 9th October but has not yet inspired any representations to Government. I attach a copy of the relevant extract. We see no local objection to residents in Palestine being given an opportunity of participating in the scheme provided their contributions were canalised through a single channel but we note that it is not desired that appeals should be promoted and accordingly propose to leave local bodies themselves to take the initiative in raising the matter.

I assume that participation in the scheme by Palestinian residents either would not entail any increase in the maximum permitted monthly remittance from the United Kingdom or, if it did, that the Ministry of Economic Warfare would consider the foreign exchange aspect. Should such participation be approved, the Ministry will no doubt give us an indication of the maximum monthly sum which may be contributed from Palestine and will also no doubt say whether it is desired that the money be remitted through official

E.B. Boyd Esq., C.M.G., C.V.O.

P.T.O.

channels or direct from a local bank to whatever body is organising the parcel service in the United Kingdom.

As a matter of interest it may be mentioned that the local Belgian Consulate provides a channel via the Congo for sending food parcels to Belgium.

Yours sincerely.

C. J. Evans.

Review of the Palestine Press - 9th October 1942.

Food Parcels from England to Ghettoes in Nazi-Occupied Poland.

The Hebrew press publishes the following P.T.A. message from London:

The first consignment of food parcels to be sent from England to Jews in Nazi-occupied Poland was a few days ago despatched from London with the permission of the British authorities. The parcels are being dispatched from London to Lisbon by ordinary parcel post and will be remailed from Lisbon to the ghettoes.

It is pointed out in London that no public financial campaign will be conducted. The shipments will be financed privately and the funds required for the next three months have already been secured. A small committee which includes Prof. Zelig Brodetsky, Dr. I. Schwarzbart, S. Zygelboigen, representatives of the World Jewish Congress and the Agudath Israel will supervise the despatch of the parcels. It is hoped that the Government of the United States and Canada may permit similar arrangements now that the British authorities have finally reached an understanding with Jewish representatives.

3c 7031/40

Ministry of Economic Warfare,
Berkeley Square House,
Berkeley Square W.1.

Ref: T550/10/907

RECEIVED
15 AUG 1942
C.O. REGY

13th August 1942

Dear Cole,

6 Would you please refer to Foreign Office Telegram No 1188 to Cairo of April 22nd, about Jewish Food parcels.

-- I am enclosing herewith a copy of the draft of a note on the subject of food parcels which are sent under various peculiar arrangments to civilians in enemy and enemy occupied territories.

It is possible that you might be interested in paragraph six (iii) in case news of it should reach the Jews in Palestine. You will see that there is no question of Jews being allowed to send parcels direct to Poland either from Palestine or from anywhere else ; nor is there any question of individual Jews in Palestine being able to place orders for parcels to be sent from Lisbon to their own relatives in Poland. On the other hand there is no reason prima facie why Jewish societies in Palestine should not contribute eventually to the funds of the organization here which is likely to be authorized to conduct the business described. I do not think that such contributions are necessary and have advised the Jews not to spread the information at present. Probably one of them will neglect my injunction, so I thought it best to give you warning. If you have any views of the eventual participation of the Palestinian Societies, would you please let me know ? We are generally in favour of hushing this news up as much as possible and not promoting appeals and so forth. But the question may arise when word reaches the Palestinians.

Yours sincerely

W. A. Crumpe

Col.S.J.Cole,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1

MINUTE SHEET.

Certain Allied Governments are operating, with British agreement, small schemes whereby individual postal packages containing foodstuffs can be sent from Portugal to civilian addressees in occupied territories. The following details are given as a precaution against false impressions regarding blockade policy in this matter, to which echoes of these schemes may give rise.

1. The sending of food-parcels through the blockade is not and never has been permitted, except in the case of parcels for prisoners of war and duly qualified civilian internees, to whom special regulations apply.

2. There has however for long been an extensive traffic in postal packages sent by persons and firms and societies in Portugal to occupied and also to enemy territories. This traffic of course evades our ordinary blockade controls. It was at one time financed largely by remittances from persons in South American countries and U.S.A. who had friends or relatives in Europe. We objected strongly because (a) German firms in Portugal were by this means acquiring valuable exchange: (b) the Portuguese Government allowed the export by post of a number of commodities imported into Portugal through our controls, whose re-export by other means we were and are able to prevent.

The latter objection now scarcely applies, as the Portuguese Government has prohibited export by post of the objectionable commodities, partly in response to pressure by ourselves and partly in the interests of their own economy.

The parcels commonly weigh 500 grammes or about 1 lb. The contents are now usually tinned sardinesor tunny fish, or dried fruit.

3. Since the entry of the U.S. into the war, remittances from that country to Portugal to pay for food parcels to be sent to occupied territories have been completely prohibited. We support this prohibition wholeheartedly.

4. We had however already agreed to an arrangement permitting the Belgian Government to organize the despatch

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of a certain number of parcels monthly from Portugal on behalf of Belgians in this country. This prevents us from maintaining the same complete prohibition as U.S.A., and commits us to allowing the same facilities to other Allied Governments as have been allowed to the Belgians. For various reasons (e.g. the absence of a postal service between Portugal and some European countries) it is unlikely that the whole lot of them will stake a claim.

5. The following rules are applied.

(a) Such arrangements can be made only with Allied Governments. This is necessary to avoid the growth of innumerable schemes sponsored by private societies etc.

(b) Private remittances are not allowed. Orders and payments are collected by an Office established in London by the Government in question; this transmits monthly to a coresponding Office at Lisbon and list of addreasees to whom parcels are to be sent and a block remittance of funds sanctioned by the Treasury. The whole operation is conducted on lines agreed with Trading with the Enemy Department. The office at Lisbon is engaged to keep in touch with the British Embassy and to follow the Embassy's advice about the firms with which it deals.

(c) Our approval is confined to the despatch of a maximum of 4 tons of parcels monthly (8,000-10,000) under any one Allied scheme, and to a maximum monthly remittance of £3,000. That is to say, neither more than 4 tons may be sent nor more than £3,000 remitted, which ever may prove to be the limiting factor. This is necessary as a general check upon the growth of such schemes, but chiefly because (a) the amount of purchasing power available to the United Nations in Portugal which can be spared for such purposes is very small (b) the number of parcels which Portuguese postal facilities can carry is limited, so that rationing is necessary to enable the various

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possible claimants to have a share.

(d) Our approval relates in general to the despatch of parcels on behalf of Allied nationals or societies in the U.K. only. This means that the London Office of any such organisation as is described under (b) cannot take orders from persons outside the U.K., unless this has been specially agreed.

(e) It is understood that the parcels may contain only goods native to Portugal and not of any kind of which Portugal is importing even a part of her requirements through the blockade. Also, that we cannot press the Portuguese to continue permitting these exports, if at any time they should prefer to stop them.

(f) It is further understood that these schemes have no relation whatever to the major question of relief for occupied territories; though they are within the terms of our general policy which permits (subject to financial considerations) purchases for relief to be made in neutral countries inside the blockade area of goods not of a kind imported by those countries through the blockade. The quantities are insignificant, and we have always made it clear that there is no certainty of the parcels arriving safely, and that there is a certainty of their being seized by the Germans if the schemes ever extended beyond small dimensions. The raison d'etre of the schemes is to sustain the morale of individuals, especially refugees and members of the Allied armed forces in this country, and to gratify the Allied Governments.

6(i)The following schemes are operating.

(a) Belgian. Office du Colis Alimentaire; at London, 84,Eaton Square; at Lisbon 52 Rua do Terreiro Trigo. Despatch of parcels on behalf of Belgians in U.K. only was originally authorised.

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Since then the Canadian Government have agreed that the few Belgians resident in Canada may transmit orders to the Lisbon Office through the Belgian Legation at Ottawa, but no remittance of funds from Canada is permitted.

(b) Free French. Office du Colis Familial; at London 3, St.James's Square; at Lisbon despatch is arranged by the Belgian concern mentioned above. Despatch is authorised on behalf of Free French in U.K., Free French in their own colonies, and members of the Free French Forces serving abroad (unless local exchange regulations forbid). The Free French observe great discretion about their scheme, lest parcels should be intercepted on account of their origin by the authorities in France.

(c) Dutch. The Netherlands Red Cross at London and its office at Lisbon. Despatch is at present authorized only on behalf of Netherlands subjects in U.K.

(ii) Similar facilities have been offered to the Norwegian, Greek and Polish Governments. Only the last-named seems likely to make use of them.

(iii) A Special arrangement is envisaged whereby the Polish Government is assigned an extra quota of 4 tons monthly (additional to the 4 tons which it may claim for other purposes) to enable parcels to be sent to Jews in Polish ghettos. The Funds will be provided by Jewish organizations in U.K. Parcels will not however be sent to the order of individuals, as in view of the distribution of the Jewish population it is inadvisable that individual Jews in England should have a privilege which cannot be extended to Jews in U.S.A.

7. The general policy towards-parcel-sending outside

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the arrangements described above may be summarized thus:-

(a) In general we disapprove and impede all remittances to Portugal for dispatch of parcels except under arrangements specifically authorized.

(b) There is however a substantial flow of remittances from the Belgian Congo to the Belgian Office at Lisbon mentioned under 6(i)a. This goes direct, and does not pass through London. It is not formally authorized, but we have not seen reason to try to interfere with it.

(c) Private remittances from neutral countries to the Lisbon offices of the allied organizations mentioned above are far less objectionable than remittances to commercial houses etc., even though they result in despatches in excess of the 4 ton quota. They may therefore be tolerated (since they can hardly be prevented), though any attempt to organize them or to claim the specific approval of the British Government for them should be resisted. The reasons will appear from paragraphs 3 and 5 (c) above. It can be explained if necessary to Allied diplomatic missions that such attempts can only endanger the existence of the arrangements already allowed.

(d) Private remittances to Portugal in this connection from any part of the Empire or from any countries operating an exchange control in agreement with the British Government would of course automatically be excluded. Possibly however Allied Nationals (e.g. Belgians or Dutch) so placed may hear of and wish to participate in the facilities enjoyed by their co-nationals in the U.K. It is important in any event that parcels should not be sent except through Allied organisations which have been established and approved, and moreover that

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the quotas already fixed for such organizations (see para. 5(c)) should not be exceeded. But we are in general opposed to any extension of these facilities to persons covered by this heading but outside the U.K., though it might be possible in some cases to contemplate allowing members of allied armed forces abroad to share in the U.K. quotas if the organization concern d so desire, and where such an arrangement does not exist already (cf para.6 (i) (b).)

S.E.V. Luke Esq. Colonial Office

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

[This Document is the Property of His Britannic Majesty's Government, and should be kept under Lock and Key.]

With the Compliments of the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
24 APR 1942
28 APR 1942 C.O.

Copied MEW.

W4392/62/49

[Cypher]

SECRET

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

7031/40

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CAIRO.

No.1188.
22nd April, 1942.

D. 3.55 p.m. 23rd April, 1942.

Ref FO letter no W4392/62/49 of Apr 13.

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Your telegram No.57 Saving [of March 8th: food parcels for Polish Jews].

I am afraid that we could not agree to the despatch of food parcels to Poland through the blockade. Fact that supplies would be of a kind not imported by Palestine (your paragraph 4) makes no difference. This distinction is only relevant in e.g. Turkey, whose native produce is accessible to Axis buyers, whereas that of Palestine is not.

2. There would be no objection to despatch of medicaments from Palestine subject to local supply considerations and views of Middle East Supply Centre. However, as you know, bandages, soap and various drugs are excluded by Ministry of Economic Warfare, to whom lists must be submitted for approval before despatch. It would be more convenient from their point of view if goods were sent as freight and not as postal parcels.

3. For your own information Ministry of Economic Warfare are considering a scheme whereby a strictly limited number of food parcels might be sent from Portugal (i.e. from inside the blockade) by arrangement with a suitable Jewish organisation here.

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Palestine (7)

Cypher 15

Copy for S. E. Luke, Esq., Colonial Office.

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9 APR 1942

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Ministry of Economic Warfare,
Berkeley Square House,
Berkeley Square,
W.1.

2nd April 1942.

Would you please refer to your W4392/62/49 of March 22nd covering savingram No. 57 from Cairo (March 8th) about the wish of Palestinian Jews to send food parcels to Poland.

I am afraid we could not agree to the despatch of food parcels to Poland through the blockade, as we have already explained to the Poles in connection with a similar request. Perhaps in replying it would be worth while to point out the misapprehension lurking in paragraph 4 of Cairo's message.

There would be no objection to the despatch of medicaments from Palestine, subject to local supply considerations. But it is advisable to explain in advance that bandages and soap as well as various drugs are excluded by our definition, and that the lists must be submitted for approval here before despatch. It would also be more convenient if the goods were sent as freight and not as postal parcels.

We are at present considering an arrangement whereby a severely limited number of food parcels might be sent from Portugal by arrangement with a suitable Jewish organisation here. You may care to mention this in your reply, though it would be rash to communicate it to the Palestinian Jews until it is definitely fixed.

I am sending a copy of this letter to S.E.Z.Luke at the Colonial Office, who may have observations.

W. A. Camps

D.Maclean, Esq.
Foreign Office, S.W.1.

With the Compliments of the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
13 APR 1942

Miss Hanrahan
Room 118.
Colonial Office

W4392/62/49.

[EN CLAIR]

DEPARTMENTAL No.2.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr M.Lampson.
No. 57 SAVING.
8th March, 1942.

RECEIVED
14 APR 1942
REG.

D. By Bag. 8th March, 1942.
R. 6.10 p.m. 20th March, 1942.

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Your telegram No. 469 [shipment of food to enemy occupied countries.]

The Grand Rabbi of Egypt has asked His Majesty's Ambassador to support an appeal by Chief Rabbi of Palestine for permission for Polish Jews in Palestine to send through the Red Cross parcels of food and medicaments to Jewish community in Poland who they say are in exceptionally serious plight.

2. Sir Harold MacMichael who was consulted on a visit here expressed opinion that so far as Palestine was concerned there was no objection to proposal provided parcels contained only food and medicaments. He would prefer to see arrangements made through International Red Cross rather than through Palestine authorities and suggested that Dr. Vischer should be consulted particularly on question of safeguards necessary.

3. If you see no objection will you please obtain views of the Ministry of Economic Warfare on above proposal. You will recall that Ministry of Economic Warfare agreed to similar concessions in the case of medicaments for Greece and Yugoslavia, but not food.

4. Supplies sent would be from surplus Palestine products of a type not imported into Palestine.

Copy to Palestine (?)

1942

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